

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

REC'D 27 APR 2005

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From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/GB2005/000246

International filing date (day/month/year)
24.01.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)
23.01.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
A41G3/00

Applicant
THE DEZAC GROUP LIMITED

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☒ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(I) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

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Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ in written format
 - ☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43b/s.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	3,8,9,10
	No: Claims	1,2,4-7,11,12
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-12
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-12
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V.

- 1 Reference is made to the following documents:

D1 : WO 99/22694 A (KING, CHRISTOPHER, R) 14 May 1999 (1999-05-14)
D2 : US 6 510 856 B1 (AHN CHANG H) 28 January 2003 (2003-01-28)

- 2 INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 1,7 AND 11

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claims 1,7 and 11 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

- 2.1 **Document D1** discloses (pages 3,4 and figures 3-9; the references in parentheses applying to this document): a method of joining a hairpiece to a lock of hair to provide a hair extension, which method comprises bonding said hairpiece to said lock using an adhesive (figure 9, D) that is curable by exposure to electromagnetic radiation (figure 9, B) (**cf. claim 1**).

- 2.2 **Document D1** further discloses (pages 3,4 and figures 3-9; the references in parentheses applying to this document): a tool for the attachment of a hairpiece to a lock of hair using an adhesive (figure 9, D) curable by exposure to electromagnetic radiation (figure 9, B), said tool comprising clamp means (figure 9, C) for clamping together in use, in abutting or overlapping fashion adjacent end regions of the lock of hair and the hairpiece, and means (figure 9, B) for directing electromagnetic radiation at said abutting or overlapping region (**cf. claim 7**).

- 2.3 **Document D1** further discloses (pages 3,4 and figures 3-9; the references in parentheses applying to this document): A hairpiece having an amount of electromagnetically curable adhesive material (figure 9, D) provided on a bonding region thereof (**cf. claim 11**).

- 3 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-6, 8-10 and 12

Dependent claims 2-6, 8-10 and 12 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT): The features of

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these claims are either known per se from **document D1** (cf. claims 2, 4-6, 12) as cited in the international search report or suggest slight changes in the tool or method of joining a hairpiece to a lock of hair of claims 1 and 7 (cf. claims 3 and 8-10) which come within the scope of the customary practice followed by persons skilled in the art, especially as the advantages thus achieved can be readily contemplated in advance (see e.g. **document D2**).